



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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October, 2004

To the Residents of Central and Southern Florida:

To provide a road map for the detailed FY2005 budget process, the South Florida Water Management District (District) developed and approved its first-ever comprehensive Strategic Plan – a 10-year plan of action for carrying out long-term agency programs and priorities. In turn, an annual Work Plan was developed with specific deliverables, milestones and success measures for projects to be accomplished in FY2005. The approved budget contained in this document links directly to that Work Plan. It includes funding that will allow us to fulfill our broad resource management responsibilities and several clearly defined priorities, which are detailed below.

Our FY2005 adopted budget totals \$792.3 million, with no increase in millage rates or full-time staffing levels. This balanced budget is funded from a variety of revenue sources. For FY2005, ad valorem tax revenue represents 47.4 percent of the total budget. State and federal revenues, permit fees, the Everglades Agricultural Area privilege tax, and other sources make up the remaining 52.6 percent. The District has successfully held tax rates steady for eight consecutive years.

In a letter to Governing Board Chair Nicolás Gutiérrez, Florida Governor Jeb Bush commended the District for creating a long-term Strategic Plan and annual Work Plan tied directly to the annual budget. He also recognized that our budget continues to focus on the District's core mission of balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

### **Budget Development Issues and Constraints**

Over the past several years, the District has been faced with a growing list of challenges and developments. These include increasingly complex partnership arrangements between federal, state, local, tribal and private entities; pressures to complete ecosystem restoration and clean-up projects; ensuring adequate water supplies for the growing population within our 16-county jurisdiction; upgrading the aging Central and Southern Florida water management system to provide adequate flood control; and modifying outdated, redundant business practices to incorporate rapidly changing technological advancements.

In preparing the FY2005 budget, we also faced a number of parameters and constraints:

- No increase in District millage rates
- No increase in full-time permanent staff members or leased positions
- Budget allocations must be linked to expected service levels, program goals and desired outcomes
- Emphasis on revenue enhancements and grant opportunities
- Outsource when it makes good business sense
- Everglades clean-up ad valorem funding to remain at 0.1000 mill
- \$100 million of ad valorem funding to be directed toward the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

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#### GOVERNING BOARD

Nicolás J. Gutiérrez, Jr., Esq., *Chair*  
Pamela Brooks-Thomas, *Vice-Chair*  
Irela M. Bagué

Michael Collins  
Hugh M. English  
Lennart E. Lindahl, P.E.

Kevin McCarty  
Harkley R. Thornton

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Henry Dean, *Executive Director*

An extraordinary hurricane season brought multiple storms into the District's 16-county region, affecting agency facilities and staff alike, just prior to FY2005 budget adoption. That unprecedented experience will likely require adjustments and/or realignments in approved Work Plan expenditures as hurricane damages are fully assessed and remedial action takes place.

In October, the Governor announced plans for the acceleration of Everglades clean up and restoration. This action and the resulting change in emphasis will require the District to move ahead with design and construction of eight major restoration projects, and cause CERP work plan and project schedule adjustments.

### **Actions Taken to Address Issues**

We have made tremendous progress on a number of resource management fronts by preparing for and recovering from four major hurricanes, accelerating our Everglades restoration efforts, updating regional water supply plans, and refurbishing the water management system of canals, levees and water control structures.

Throughout the course of the FY2005 budget planning and development process, the agency also made tremendous strides to further improve and strengthen our financial management and planning efforts. The District uses a programmatic, outcome-oriented approach to build its annual budget. In a streamlining move, we consolidated 23 previous programs into 10. This makes for a more effective, less time-consuming process that limits budget detail to the most material items.

A major shift for the agency was the implementation of a strategic business cycle that fully integrates and links long-term strategic direction with annual work plans, budgeting and performance reporting.

Early in the process, the Governing Board was presented with revenue projections covering a 10-year planning horizon. Based on that financial forecast, the Board identified initial funding priorities for the next decade. That action set into motion the development of a comprehensive Strategic Plan based on 10 programs and seven key priorities. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed each year prior to budget development, specifically for strategy alignment, success, shortfalls and opportunities for improvements. These long-term strategies provide the framework for annual work plans and shape the budget that supports them.

Follow-up performance tracking and reporting will provide the public with a report card on agency progress toward completing projects and achieving goals. Work is also underway to develop common data sources (i.e., a data warehouse) to ensure reporting consistency and integrity. Standardized project management training and implementation, coupled with more reliable, real-time data will assist project managers in making accurate projections and completing tasks.

An improved and powerful enterprise-wide management software has been acquired and will be implemented in FY2005. This will significantly aid in the integration of various business/management systems and databases that now operate as part of discrete and separate processes.

The hurricanes of 2004 left indelible impressions on both the landscape and the people of Central and South Florida. While the regional water management system performed with distinction under extreme circumstances, the aging infrastructure suffered damage and work will be required during FY2005 to stabilize eroded canal banks and to make critical structure repairs. The District will work closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with funding for post-storm recovery.

### **FY2005 Priorities**

As part of the strategic business cycle, the Governing Board identified seven agency priorities. To expedite achievement, these priorities are given planning, budgeting and implementation emphasis:

**Build Three Reservoirs Through Public/Private Partnerships**

The District is expediting construction of three major water storage facilities as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). These facilities will alleviate high water levels in Lake Okeechobee, and reduce the need for discharges to the coastal estuaries. The use of public/private partnerships has been explored as a way to enable the District to increase its cash flow flexibility and expedite project completion. Announced in October 2004, the District will also accelerate design and construction on five other Everglades restoration projects.

**Achieve Everglades Water Quality Standards**

The District will complete construction of all Everglades Construction Project components and implement the Long-Term Plan to ensure that all waters discharging into the Everglades Protection Area are in compliance with state water quality standards.

**Acquire Land for Kissimmee River Restoration**

The District will acquire all identified Kissimmee River Restoration and Headwater Revitalization Project lands by December 2005 in order to proceed with construction of further backfilling phases with our federal partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Reduce Phosphorus Inputs to Lake Okeechobee**

The District will continue to implement the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan. This plan details the components necessary to meet the total maximum daily load of 140 metric tons of phosphorus to Lake Okeechobee by 2015, as required by legislation. Major projects include watershed management, exotic plant control, regional restoration projects and lake restoration assessment.

**Refurbish the Regional Water Management System**

The District's regional water management infrastructure — repeatedly tested during an active hurricane season — is reaching its life expectancy for structural components and machinery. Planned refurbishments include capital projects, canal and levee maintenance, major gate and pump station overhauls, structure and pumping operations refinements and maintenance. Repairing hurricane-damaged facilities will take precedence in FY2005.

**Implement Water Supply Plan Recommendations**

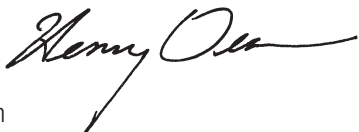
The District's focus is to partner with local governments and utilities that construct water resource projects, and increase support for alternative water supply projects and water conservation. Implementing water supply plan recommendations will ensure that adequate water supply is available to meet current and projected environmental and human water needs.

**Continue to Recognize the Value of Employees**

The District will continue to implement strategies to hire and retain a high-performance, team oriented, diverse workforce that is engaged, motivated and focused on achieving agency goals.

While 2004 brought many challenges and opportunities to the 16-county region, this FY2005 budget prepares the South Florida Water Management District to face the resource management challenges of another year!

Sincerely,



Henry Dean

## Governing Board



**Nicolás J. Gutiérrez, Jr., Esq.**  
*Chair*

County Served:  
*Miami-Dade*  
Term:  
*March 2004–February 2008*



**Pamela D. Brooks-Thomas**  
*Vice Chair*

County Served:  
*Broward*  
Term:  
*March 2002–March 2006*



**Irela Bagué**

County Served:  
*Miami-Dade*  
Term:  
*March 2003–March 2007*



**Michael Collins**

Counties Served:  
*St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach,  
Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe*  
Term:  
*March 2002–March 2006*



**Lennart E. Lindahl, P.E.**

Counties Served:  
*St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach,  
Broward, Miami-Dade and  
Monroe*  
Term:  
*March 2001–March 2005*



**Hugh M. English**

Counties Served:  
*Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry,  
Glades, Osceola and  
Okeechobee*  
Term:  
*March 2001–March 2005*



**Kevin McCarty**

County Served:  
*Palm Beach*  
Term:  
*March 2003–March 2007*



**Harkley R. Thornton**

Counties Served:  
*Glades, Highlands, Okeechobee,  
Orange, Osceola and Polk*  
Term:  
*March 2004–February 2008*



**Trudi K. Williams, P.E.**

Counties Served:  
*Collier, Lee, Hendry and  
Charlotte*

The ninth Governing Board seat is currently vacant. This seat was formerly held by Trudi K. Williams at the time of FY2005 budget adoption. She was elected to the state legislature in Autumn of 2004.

The District's Governing Board sets policy and direction for the agency. These nine individuals, each representing specific geographic areas within the District, are appointed by Florida's governor and confirmed by the Florida senate. Board members serve without salary for a term of four years and appointments are made as vacancies occur. The Board elects its own officers, including a Chair and Vice Chair.

The 1976 legislative amendment creating water management districts also established two Basin Boards within the District's boundaries:

### The Big Cypress Basin Board

This Board oversees water resource issues within Collier County and a small portion of Monroe County.

### The Okeechobee Basin Board

This Board oversees water resource issues in all remaining counties within the District's boundaries.

District Governing Board members sit on the two Basin Boards and set policy and direction within the Basins.

## Executive Management Team

Governing Board members are responsible for appointing the District's Executive Director and Inspector General. The Florida senate confirms the Executive Director's appointment.



**Henry Dean**  
*Executive Director*

Henry Dean, a veteran water manager, was appointed District Executive Director in July 2001. As head of the state's largest regional water management agency, he oversees a staff of nearly 1,800 employees. Dean is responsible for carrying out the policies set by the Governing Board, performing overall executive management and leading the agency toward the successful accomplishment of its mission.



**Carol Wehle**  
*Assistant  
Executive Director*

Carol Wehle chairs the District Leadership Team, which addresses management issues and organization strategies. In addition, she is responsible for day-to-day operation, oversight and decision-making, and provides direct support to the Executive Director and Governing Board.

## Deputy Executive Directors



**Pamela S. Mac'Kie**  
*Land Resources*



**Chip Merriam**  
*Water Resources*



**George L. Horne**  
*Operations and Maintenance*



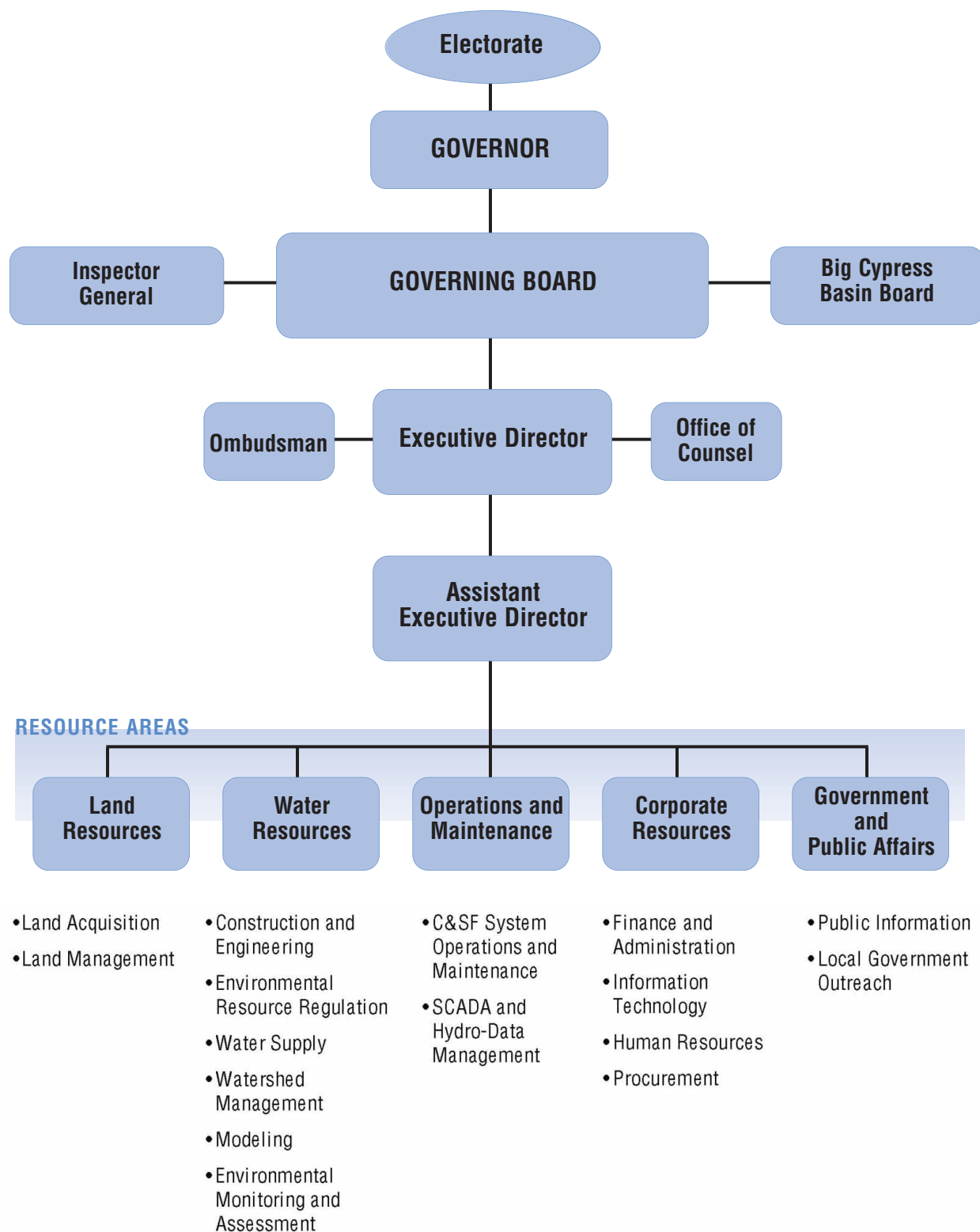
**Thomas W. Olliff**  
*Corporate Resources*



**Alvin B. Jackson, Jr.**  
*Government and Public Affairs*

The Deputy Executive Directors (DED) ensure that agency implementation of the Strategic Plan and annual Work Plan complies with guidance from the Executive Director and the policies established by the Governing Board. The DEDs provide input on Strategic Plan policy and strategy development, and coordinate implementation of policy directives within and across their respective resource areas.

## Organization Chart





## District Personnel

Management values District personnel as one of the agency's most vital resources. To ensure a workforce that plays a key role in achieving the District's mission long into the future, management strives to attract and retain employees who share the agency's emphasis on quality.

In FY2005, District staff consists of 1,771 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees. An additional 18 people fill leased positions, which are short-term positions that support special projects on a limited-time basis. While FTEs remained the same as in FY2004, leased positions decreased by 13. Of the 1,771 FTEs, 41 percent are scientists and engineers, 20 percent are craftspeople, 14 percent are professionals or technical personnel, 10 percent are administrative personnel, 7 percent are information technology personnel, 6 percent are managers and 2 percent are legal personnel.

## Personnel by Program

Although the following table displays positions for each program, employees sometimes move from program to program to satisfy District priority needs or as Work Plan adjustments occur:

Program	FY2003 Positions		FY2004 Positions		FY2005 Positions	
	FTE	Lease	FTE	Lease	FTE	Lease
Coastal Watersheds	31	4	29	2	38	1
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)	175	6	169	13	158	5
District Everglades	186	21	182	5	180	5
Kissimmee Restoration	45	4	46	3	45	1
Lake Okeechobee	51	8	46	5	55	5
Land Stewardship	43	1	56	-	52	-
Operations and Maintenance	570	-	570	-	569	-
Regulation	182	-	180	-	186	-
Water Supply	79	2	76	1	70	1
Mission Support	409	2	417	2	418	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>18</b>

\* Note: "Lease" positions represent leasing-agency employees who perform project-specific tasks of limited duration. This column represents only leasing-agency employees and not other contractors who perform work for the District.

## Personnel Changes

The following District programs experienced personnel changes for FY2005:

### Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Program

The decreases in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Program are due to the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accelerating the pace on eight CERP restoration projects. Also, outsourcing has increased, resulting in less District staff being needed for the design and construction of these projects.

## Coastal Watersheds

The increases in the Coastal Watersheds Program are due primarily to expanded activity for flood management planning, including FEMA projects and flood forecasting. In addition, the workload and FTEs associated with Florida Bay and the Florida Keys, which were assigned to a different program last year, were included in the Coastal Watersheds Program for FY2005.

## Lake Okeechobee

The increases in the Lake Okeechobee Program are due primarily to expanded participation in the program by the Water Supply Department, the Office of Modeling, the Environmental Resource Assessment Department, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, and Hydrologic Data Management for the revised Works of the District monitoring program. In addition, FTE support was added from the Land Acquisition Department, and participation was expanded from Engineering and Construction for the design and construction of the Lemkin Creek and Nubbin Slough STA expansions.

## Regulation

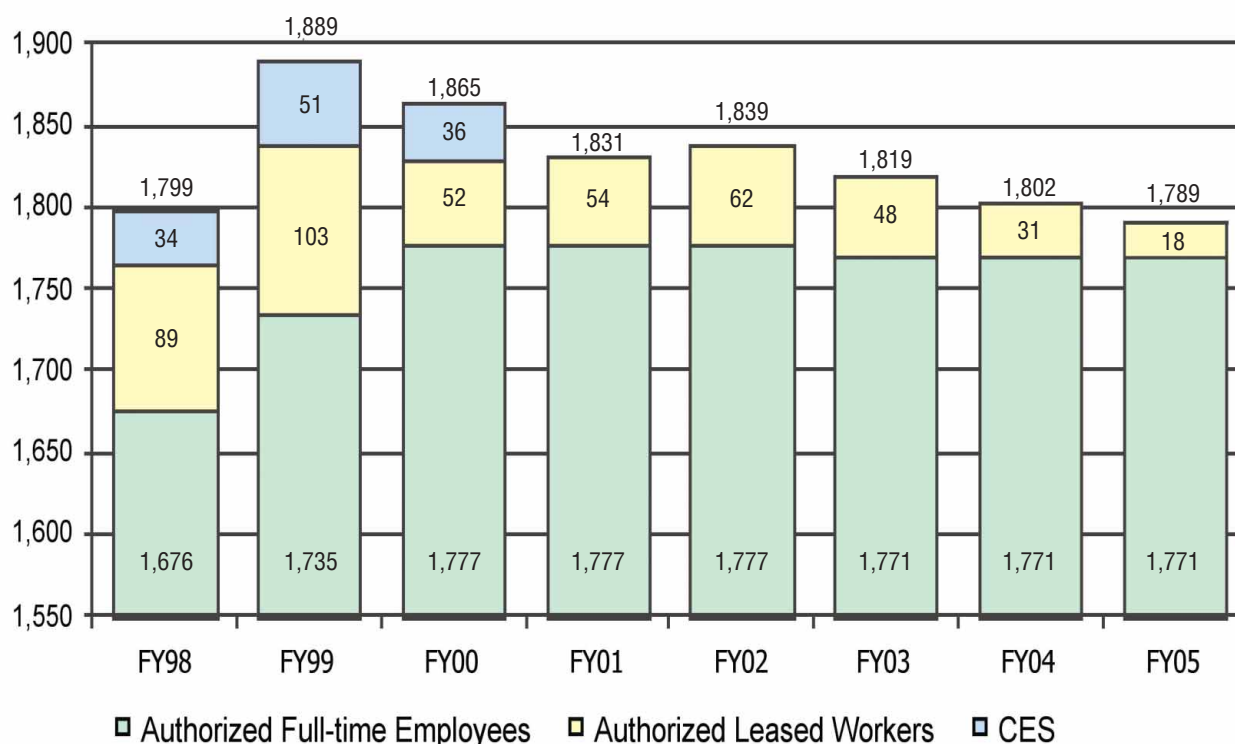
The increases in the Regulation Program are due primarily to the addition of staff members, who were redirected from the Water Supply Program to the Regulation Program to help with the increased workload on the agriculture-basin water-use permit renewal effort.

## Water Supply

The decreases in the Water Supply Program are due primarily to the redirection of staff members from the Water Supply Program to the Regulation Program to help with the increased workload on the agriculture-basin water-use permit renewal effort.

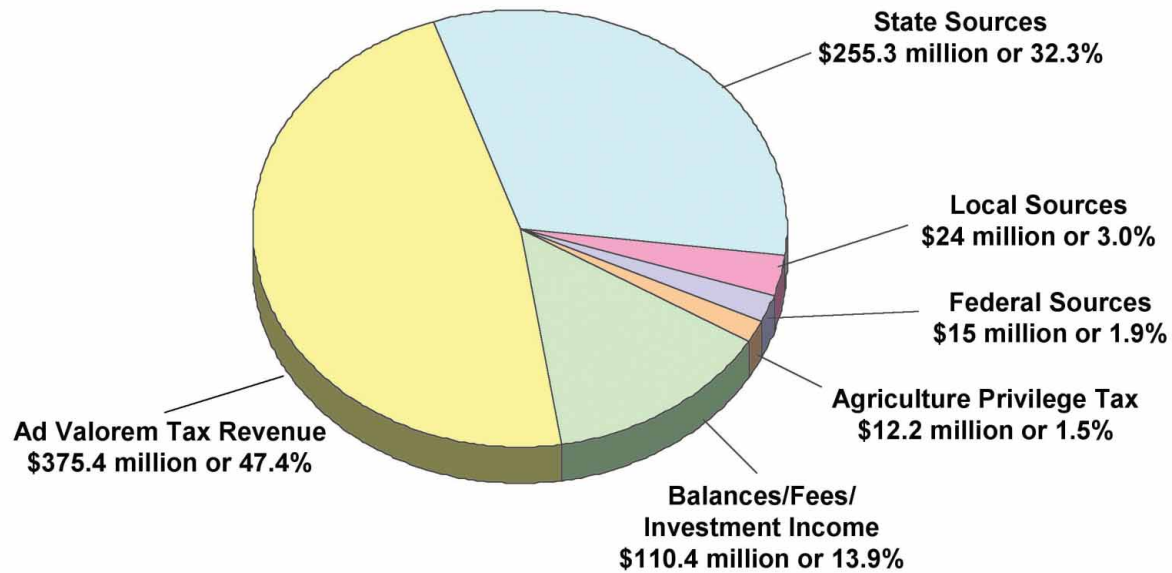
## Total District Staffing

Full-time positions have remained nearly constant for the last five years. Leased or part-time workers have decreased from 52 positions in FY2000 to 18 in FY2005 because some activities previously supported by leased employees are now completed or outsourced. Staff for the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) worked on scientific projects until FY2000, when the CES contract came to an end. The following graph depicts the change in total District staffing over the last eight years:





## Where the Money Comes From



**Total Revenue \$792.3 Million**

The chart above depicts the District's revenue sources and the percentage of total revenues each represents. The estimated revenue sources for FY2005 total \$792.3 million.

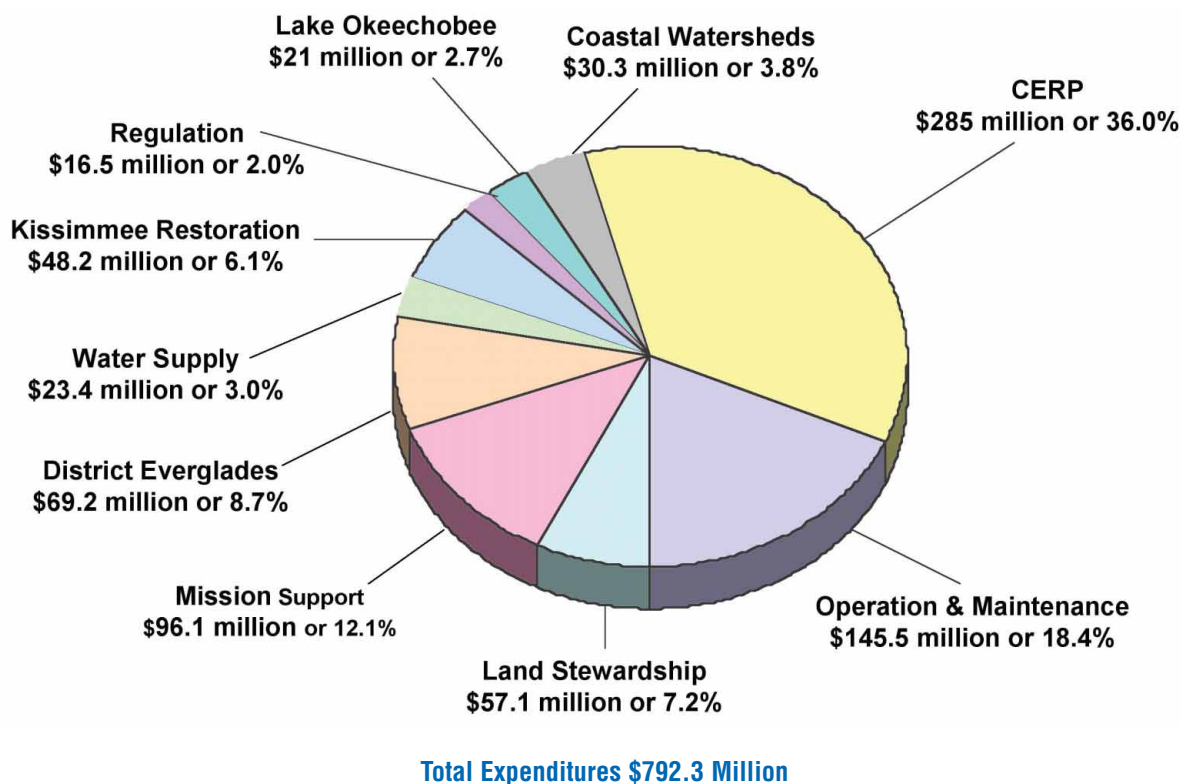
The primary source of District revenue comes from taxes (\$387.6 million), which are comprised of ad valorem property taxes (\$375.4 million) and agriculture privilege taxes (\$12.2 million). As part of the strategic-priority-setting process, ad valorem property taxes are determined by applying Governing Board-approved millage rates to taxable value estimates provided by county property appraisers. Agriculture privilege taxes are assessed on actively farmed agricultural acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) and the C-139 Basin, as mandated by the Everglades Forever Act.

The next largest revenue source is intergovernmental (\$294.3 million), which is comprised of federal (\$15 million), state (\$255.3 million) and local (\$24 million) funding. The majority of federal funds come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Principal state funds come from the Florida Forever Program and the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund. Local funds are anticipated primarily from Martin County, with additional funding from Collier and Miami-Dade counties.

The remaining \$110.4 million in revenue comes from a combination of available fund balances from FY2004; licenses, permits and fees; and investment income. The licenses, permits and fees revenue includes income from the sale of license tags, regulatory and right-of-way permits or fees, and mitigation projects. The investment earnings are a result of the prudent investment of funds not immediately needed for current operations.

*Please see the Financial Overview section of this document for more detailed information on the District's revenue budget.*

## Where the Money Goes



The chart above depicts the District's expenditures for the programs that work together to fulfill the District's mission. The anticipated expenditure total for FY2005 is \$792.3 million.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP), and the Operations and Maintenance Program are the two largest program expenditures, totaling \$430.5 million or 54.3 percent of the total budget. Following are the FY2005 key activity highlights for these two programs and the other eight programs that comprise the remaining 45.7 percent of expenditures:

### CERP

CERP represents 36 percent of the budget at \$285 million.

#### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Design will begin on the C-43, C-44 and EAA Reservoirs.
- Project implementation reports for Acme Basin B, Southern Golden Gate Estates and Indian River Lagoon will be completed.
- Plan specifications, design and other work will begin for Hillsboro Aquifer Storage Recovery, Caloosahatchee Aquifer Storage Recovery Pilot, L-8 Reservoir, Allapattah Ranch, G-161, M-Canal, Western Tamiami Trail and Lake Trafford.
- The Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Critical Restoration Projects and Western C-11 Water Quality Improvement Project will be completed.

## Operations and Maintenance

The Operations and Maintenance Program represents 18.4 percent of the budget at \$145.5 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Construction on 52 capital improvement projects will be completed.
- Overhauls of 27 pump stations and gate structures, and preventive maintenance on approximately 300 pieces of equipment will be completed.
- Electronic communications will be installed on 121 environmental monitoring sites and maintenance will be performed on 900 sites.
- Approximately 30,000 acres of levees and canal banks will be maintained and 47,000 acres of aquatics and exotic vegetation will be treated.



*Inflow pump station*

## Coastal Watersheds

The Coastal Watersheds Program represents 3.8 percent of the budget at \$30.3 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Implementation of St. Lucie River Issues Team projects and the Westport Wastewater Treatment Plan Reuse Project in the Southern Indian River Lagoon will continue.
- Restoration planning and initial water reservation technical work for the Loxahatchee River and Estuary will be completed.
- Development of technical criteria for Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) for South Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay and the Florida Keys will be completed.
- The Gateway Triangle Stormwater Project in Naples Bay and the Four Corners Project in Caloosahatchee River/Watershed will begin.
- The Charlotte Harbor Surface Water Improvement Plan document will be completed.

## District Everglades

The District Everglades Program represents 8.7 percent of the budget at \$69.2 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Construction of the Chapter 298 District diversions and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 3/4 will be completed.
- Construction on S-5A Basin runoff diversion works and the G-371 and G-373 diversion bypass structures will continue.
- Updating of water quality data for each basin in the Phosphorus Source Control Program will be completed.
- A research project on the recovery of impacted areas of the Everglades Protection Area will be designed and implemented.
- Research and monitoring for Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment and Everglades Botanical Research Compound will be performed.

## Kissimmee Restoration

The Kissimmee Restoration Program represents 6.1 percent of the budget at \$48.2 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Acquisition of 95 percent of the lands needed for Kissimmee River restoration will be completed.
- The Kissimmee watershed model will be updated.
- Performance measures for the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Long-Term Management Plan will be completed.
- Construction of the Pleasant Hill Regional Stormwater Improvement project will continue.
- Improvements will be made to enhance East Lake Tohopekaliga flood control.

## Lake Okeechobee

The Lake Okeechobee Program represents 2.7 percent of the budget at \$21 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Annual submerged aquatic plant surveys, the control of cattail expansion into key fishery habitats and the dredging of Taylor Creek tributaries will be completed.
- Approximately 2,000 acres of invasive torpedo grass and 500 acres of melaleuca will be treated.
- Research will be conducted to find improved methods for exotic species plant control.
- Site optimization, design and permitting for Nubbin Slough STA expansion will be initiated.
- Land acquisition and design for the Lemkin Creek urban stormwater project will be initiated.
- Funding will be provided to the City of Pahokee to improve its wastewater treatment plant.



## Land Stewardship

The Land Stewardship Program represents 7.2 percent of the budget at \$57.1 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Management plans for Allapattah, Kissimmee River and Model Lands will be developed.
- Stewardship management plans for Shingle Creek and Nicodemus Slough will be updated.
- Invasive exotic plant control on approximately 31,000 acres of District lands will continue.
- Public access and recreation policies for the Stormwater Treatment Areas will be implemented.
- Over 500 acres of degraded habitat in the Shingle Creek, Lake Kissimmee and Kissimmee River project areas will be restored.

## Mission Support

The Mission Support Program represents 12.1 percent of the budget at \$96.1 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- The level of awareness regarding District programs will be increased by disseminating information, building relationships, and partnering with local governments and communities.
- Workflow efficiency, project management improvement and data disaster-recovery plans will be implemented.
- Water quality monitoring networks will be optimized.
- Implementation will begin on new computerized business systems.
- Healthy workforce initiatives will be developed and implemented.

## Regulation

The Regulation Program represents 2 percent of the budget at \$16.5 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Water use e-permitting will be initiated and water use renewals for the Lower West Coast Basins A, B and C will be implemented.
- Review of an estimated 2,300 Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) applications will be completed.
- Approximately 8,500 compliance inspections will be conducted.
- Review of approximately 1,900 water use permit applications and an average of 1,200 compliance investigations will be completed.
- Ninety percent of current ERP construction certifications, and partial ERP delegation to Miami-Dade and Collier Counties will be completed.



## Water Supply

The Water Supply Program represents 3 percent of the budget at \$23.4 million.

### FY2005 Key Program Highlights

- Water supply plans for the Kissimmee Basin, Lower East Coast and Lower West Coast will be updated, and an economic analysis of identified water supply plan options will be completed.
- Local government comprehensive plan amendments and evaluation/appraisal reports will be reviewed.
- Design of top-ranked projects for the Regional Irrigation Distribution System (RIDS) will be completed.
- Technical documents for establishing MFLs in Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay and Lake Istokpoga will be prepared.
- Water conservation efforts will continue, including the Mobile Irrigation Lab Program and the Water Savings Incentive Program.
- Alternative Water Supply and Water Resource Development partnership projects will be implemented.

*Please see the Work Plan and Budget section for detailed information on individual programs.*



## History

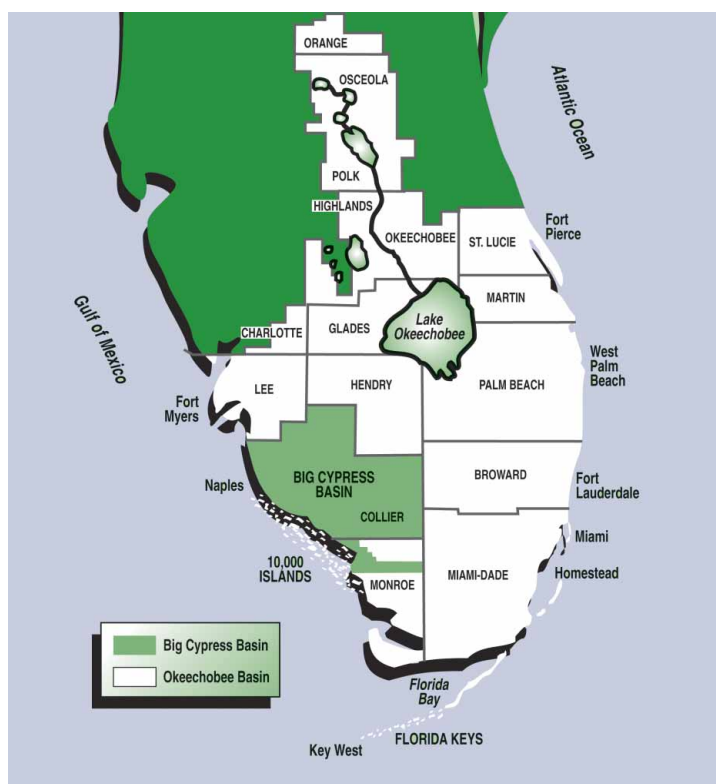
In 1948, the U.S. Congress adopted legislation creating the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF), which marked the beginning of organized water management efforts in South Florida. This legislation was spurred by efforts to populate the “new frontier” that was South Florida, and to address the region’s subtropical weather extremes, which include hurricanes, floods and drought. The C&SF’s primary goals were to serve the needs of growing agricultural and urban populations, and to protect and manage water resources. To address the C&SF’s goals, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) built a vast network of water control structures, levees, canals and other improved waterways, designed to help the region cope with its unpredictable weather extremes.

In 1949, the Florida Legislature created the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District (FCD) to act as the local sponsor for the C&SF. Its function was to operate and maintain the water control network with funding from property taxes levied within District boundaries. Years later, the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 triggered a significant change in the state’s approach to natural resource management. This legislation divided the state into five regional water management districts and greatly expanded the responsibilities of the existing FCD. It also included greater emphasis on water quality and environmental protection initiatives. When the FCD was renamed the South Florida Water Management District (District) in 1976, new boundaries were drawn to encompass the region’s primary watersheds.

Since 1949, the District has grown into a diverse agency that addresses many water-resource-related issues, including flood and water supply protection, enhanced water quality for urban and rural use, and restoring and managing natural ecosystems.

## Boundaries

District boundaries are based on natural, hydrogeologic basins, rather than political or county limits. This allows for efficient water planning and management. The boundaries of the District encompass all or part\* of 16 counties, covering a total area of 17,930 square miles, spanning from Orlando to Key West (see map). Approximately 6.9 million people live within the District’s boundaries.



### Counties within the District

Broward	*Charlotte	Collier
Glade	Hendry	*Highlands
Lee	Martin	Miami-Dade
Monroe	*Orange	*Osceola
*Okeechobee	Palm Beach	*Polk
St. Lucie		

There are two primary basins contained within the District’s boundaries – the Okeechobee Basin and the Big Cypress Basin. The Okeechobee Basin is based on the sprawling Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades (KOE) ecosystem, which stretches from Central Florida’s Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to Lake Okeechobee, south to the Florida Keys. It includes 700,000 acres in the Everglades Agricultural Area, the heavily developed southeast coast and the Everglades National Park. The Big Cypress Basin includes all of Collier and part of Monroe counties, the Big Cypress National Preserve and the 10,000 Islands.



## District Functions and Major Responsibilities

The District is a multi-faceted agency with a core mission of providing flood control. Its responsibilities, however, have increased greatly since its creation. The District's functions now incorporate operating and maintaining the C&SF, developing and implementing water supply plans, providing ecosystem research and monitoring, regulating water use, purchasing land for preservation, and implementing ecosystem restoration plans. In addition, District staff conduct environmental monitoring and assessment, develop the budget, produce public outreach materials, and oversee financial, legal and contractual services. The District has also been charged with integrating, managing and implementing the Everglades Construction Project (ECP) and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

The adopted budget includes 1,789 positions, comprised of 1,771 full time and 18 leased positions. Employees are located at facilities across the District's 16-county jurisdiction to provide the public more direct and responsive access to permitting and other agency functions. Locations include eight field stations in Okeechobee, Kissimmee, West Palm Beach, Clewiston, Fort Lauderdale, Naples, Miami and Homestead. District Headquarters are in West Palm Beach, with service centers located in Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Naples, Stuart, Miami, Orlando, Okeechobee and Islamorada. The Big Cypress Basin Service Center and Field Station are located in Naples. Operations and policies for the Basin are directed by a six-member Basin Board and are carried out by staff under the direction of the Basin administrator.

## Operations and Maintenance

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) staff is responsible for routine and emergency operations and maintenance of Works of the District, including the C&SF, the ECP and the evolving CERP. O&M functions include operating and maintaining structures, gates, pump stations, canals and levees in the C&SF project for flood control, and in the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) for water quality restoration. Also, O&M personnel control nuisance vegetation in all District-managed rights-of-way, canals, lakes and wetlands, and provide continuous surveillance of hydro-meteorological conditions.

District personnel operate and maintain the originally designed C&SF, which is one of the world's largest public works projects. It includes approximately 1,969 miles of canals and levees (1,800 miles in the C&SF Project and 169 miles in the Big Cypress Basin), which are controlled by 500 District water control structures and 50 pump stations used to send water south and through waterways eastward and westward to both coasts. These pumping stations move hundreds of millions of gallons of water in and out of storage areas, providing both water supply and flood protection.

## Regulation

The District has a number of regulatory programs designed to protect the region's water resources. Under the state's 1993 environmental streamlining legislation, land alteration activities or works affecting water resources are regulated under one type of permit – the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP). Pursuant to statutory direction, the District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) have adopted uniform wetland delineation, mitigation banking and environmental resource permitting criteria. The District also regulates the consumptive uses of water. The types of activities regulated by the District include:



*Stormwater run-off*

## Water Resource System

The District is responsible for the following surface water systems:

- Projects with impacts on wetlands or other surface waters (dredge and fill)
- Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) for the Works of the District
- Use of District lands, canals or levee rights-of-way
- Taking water from lakes, canals, streams or aquifers
- Drainage system construction or operation
- Well construction

### Upper Chain of Lakes and Kissimmee River

The Upper Chain of Lakes and the Kissimmee River are the northernmost components of the greater Everglades system. The 56-mile channelized (Canal 38) Kissimmee River connects Lake Kissimmee and Lake Okeechobee.

### Caloosahatchee River

The Caloosahatchee River stretches 67 miles, from Lake Okeechobee west to the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Myers.

### St. Lucie Canal

The St. Lucie Canal is Lake Okeechobee's eastern outlet, extending 25.5 miles from Port Mayaca to the south fork of the St. Lucie River.

### Water Conservation Areas

Three Water Conservation Areas (WCA) and the Everglades National Park comprise about 50 percent of the original Everglades. These WCAs are located in the western portions of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties and encompass 1,337 square miles.

### Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee and its watershed are key components of South Florida's ecosystem. The lake spans 730 square miles and is the second largest freshwater lake located wholly within the United States.



*Lake Okeechobee Rim Canal*

## Everglades Restoration

For 50 years, the C&SF provided management oversight for the Florida Everglades. The current CERP program was created when the Federal Water Resources Development Acts of 1992 and 1996 gave the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) the authority to re-evaluate the performance and outcomes of C&SF activities. The plan that resulted from the USACE review and recommendations includes six pilot projects and 56 co-sponsored components spanning 38 years, with costs shared equally between state and federal government. The program incorporates the capture, storage and redistribution of fresh water previously lost to tide, and the regulation of the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water flows.



*Spraying aquatic vegetation*

The Everglades Forever Act (EFA), passed by the Florida Legislature in 1994, directed the District to acquire the land, design the program, obtain permits and construct a series of STAs to reduce phosphorus levels from stormwater run-off and other sources before it enters the Everglades Protection Area. To facilitate this goal, the ECP was established. One of the largest environmental restoration public works projects in the nation, it is estimated to cost approximately \$836.2 million over 20 years. Major funding sources include ad valorem property taxes, agricultural privilege taxes, state land funds, federal funds, Alligator Alley toll revenues and other environmental mitigation funds.

The Everglades restoration plan also includes the Restoration Coordination and Verification program (RECOVER), designed to ensure that high quality science is continuously available during implementation of the overall restoration plan. RECOVER

encourages the participation of diverse agencies and stakeholders in adaptive management and ongoing plan refinement.





## Other District Responsibilities

The District's responsibilities extend far beyond regulatory programs, Everglades restoration, water supply planning and implementation, and flood control operations. The following activities also fall under the District's authority:

### Land Acquisition

The District acquires, manages and restores lands through Florida's Save Our Rivers (SOR) and Florida Forever land acquisition programs.

### Surface Water Improvement and Management

Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) programs are ongoing for Lake Okeechobee, Biscayne Bay and the Indian River Lagoon.

### Kissimmee River Restoration

Restoration of the Kissimmee River — the headwaters of the Everglades — is a major District initiative.

### Inter-agency Coordination

Partnerships and coordination with other agencies are ongoing and help support water resource development projects, development of alternative water supplies, water conservation, re-use and stormwater management goals.

### Research, Data Collection and Analysis

Research, data collection and analysis help ensure District projects and programs are effective and efficient.

### Emergency Operations

Emergency operations and management is a cornerstone of District operations, especially during hurricane season or in times of drought.

### Invasive Plant Control

The District is a leader in melaleuca, aquatic weed and other exotic plant control.

